

CLAIMS:

1. A method of encrypting a first set of data comprising the steps of:
generating a second set of data representative of a first set of data; and
encrypting the first set of data using the second set of data.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first set of data is encrypted by performing a symmetric key based encryption algorithm between the first set of data and the second set of data.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first set of data is encrypted by performing an exclusive OR operation between the first set of data and the second set of data.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first set of data comprises digital data.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second set of data comprises a reduced version of the first set of data.
6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an encrypted first set of data is stored at a first node.
7. A method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the step of:
storing the second set of data in a memory of a second node.
8. A method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising the step of storing the second set of data at a third node.
9. A method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the steps of transmitting the encrypted first set of data from the second node to the first node.

10. A method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the step of storing the encrypted first set of data at a location on said first node.
11. A method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the step of transmitting address information of a location at which the first set of data is stored, from said first node to said second node.
12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the address information of the location at which the encrypted first set of data is stored is a URL.
13. A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising the step of storing the second set of data at a location on said third node.
14. A method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising the step of transmitting address information of the location at which the second set of data is stored, from said third node to said second node.
15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the address information at which the second set of data is stored is a URL.
16. A method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the step of decrypting the encrypted first set of data using the second set of data.
17. A method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the step of decrypting the encrypted first set of data by performing an exclusive OR operation between the encrypted first set of data and the second set of data.
18. A method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the steps of decrypting the encrypted first set of data and transmitting a request to

download the encrypted first set of data to the address of a location at which the encrypted first set of data is stored.

19. A method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the steps of decrypting the encrypted first set of data and downloading the encrypted set of data from the first node to the second node.
20. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising the steps of decrypting the encrypted first set of data and downloading the second set of data from the third node to the second node.
21. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the second set of data is generated at a second node.
22. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first set of data is encrypted at the second node.
23. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first node comprises a first network archive server.
24. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the second node comprises a piece of user equipment.
25. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the third node comprises a second network archive server.
26. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the user equipment comprises one of a mobile station, a digital camera, a personal digital assistant or a personal computer.

27. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first set of data comprises one of a digital photograph, a picture or a text document, an audio file, or multimedia message.
28. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second set of data comprises one of a thumbnail image, an extract from an audio file or a picture of a multimedia message.
29. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the first set of data is created by the second node.
30. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the first set of data is received at the second node from a third party.
31. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein address information of a location at which the encrypted first set of data is stored, and the second set of data are sent to a third party.
32. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the address information of the location at which the encrypted first set of data is stored, is stored in the second set of data as a watermark.
33. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the address information of the location at which the encrypted first set of data is stored is derivable from the second set of data.
34. A system for encrypting a first set of data comprising:
generating means for generating a second set of data representative of the first set of data; and
encrypting means for encrypting the first set of data using the second set of data.

35. A system according to claim 33, wherein the encrypting means is arranged to encrypt the first set of data by performing a symmetric key based algorithm between the first set of data and the second set of data.
36. A system according to claim 33, wherein the encrypting means is arranged to encrypt the first set of data by performing an exclusive OR operation between the first set of data and the second set of data.
37. A system as claimed in claims 33, further comprising a first node comprising storage means configured to store an encrypted first set of data.
38. A system as claimed in claim 36, further comprising a second node comprising storage means configured to store the second set of data.
39. A system as claimed in claim 37, further comprising a third node comprising storage means configured to store the second data.
40. A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the second node further comprises said encrypting means.
41. A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the second node further comprises transmitting means configured to transmit the encrypted first set of data to the first node.
42. A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the second node further comprises a capturing means configured to capture the first set of data.

43. A system as claimed in claim 33, further comprising decrypting means for decrypting the encrypted first set of data using the second set of data.
44. A system as claimed in claim 42, wherein the decrypting means is configured to decrypt the encrypted first set of data by performing an exclusive OR operation between the encrypted first set of data and the second set of data.
45. A system as claimed in claim 36, wherein the first node comprises a first network archive server.
46. A system as claimed in claim 37, wherein the second node comprises a piece of user equipment.
47. A system as claimed in claim 45, wherein the piece of user equipment comprises one of a mobile station, a digital camera, a personal digital assistant or a personal computer.
48. A system as claimed in claim 38, wherein the third node comprises a second network server archive.
49. A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the first set of data comprises one of a digital photograph, a picture or a text document, an audio file, or multimedia message.
50. A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the second set of data comprises one of a thumbnail image, an extract from an audio file or a picture of a multimedia message.

51. A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the system comprises a single entity.
52. A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein means are provided to delete the encrypted first set of data from the first node after the encrypted first set of data has been downloaded.
53. A system as claimed in claim 33, comprising a node for storing the encrypted first set of data.
54. A system as claimed in claim 52, wherein said node is a network archive server.